

REGIONAL CONFERENCES HELD

The Montana Committee for the Humanities has sponsored five regional conferences—in Kalispell, Butte, Havre, Lewistown, and Glendive—to stimulate dialogue about current public issues relating to the year's theme of "Private Rights and Public Choices," and to illustrate ways the humanities can be used to illuminate these issues. Each conference explored some aspect, chosen by local steering committees in those five cities, of the impact of technology on Montana.

Kalispell

The first regional conference was at Kalispell on November 17. A panel focusing on what directions national energy policy will or ought to take in the future was moderated by State Representative Ora J. Halvorson, and included William H. Coldiron, Executive Vice President, Montana Power Company, Butte; Dr. Lauren McKinsey, political scientist and staff member of the State Commission on Local Government Review, Helena; Dr. John W. Reuss, political scientist and director of the Montana State Environmental Quality Council, Helena; Ernest E. Thurlow, assistant vice president of the Coal, Energy, and Minerals Department at Burlington Northern, Inc., Billings; and Thurman Trosper, president of the National Wilderness Society, Ronan.

Dr. Reuss related criteria, advanced by Montana's Environmental Quality Council and Governor Judge's Energy Advisory Council, to guide

SUMMER HUMANIST PROGRAM (Cont'd from page one)

participation of academic humanists in the public policy discussion and decision-making processes of the community.

However, many full-time teachers do not have time during the academic year to do the kind of research and reflection necessary to enable them to participate most effectively in MCH programs. Because quality dialogue between professionals in the humanities and others is the heart of a humanities program, the NEH agreed to support an experimental Summer Humanists in Residence program during July and August of last year. Its success has prompted the NEH to sponsor another Summer Humanists program during July and August of 1976.

This program will provide stipends for three humanists who wish to do the kind of research and writing which will prepare them to make meaningful contributions to the discussions of public policy issues funded by the MCH. An announcement of the names of the three humanists chosen for the awards will be in the next newsletter.

Montana in determining its contribution to domestic energy development. The criteria stress serious national commitment to energy conservation, a moderate but discernable states' rights approach to governmental energy policy, easy public access to governmental energy information, and a recognition that the agricultural role of the West is more important than the role of energy supplier.

Ernest Thurlow suggested the nation's approach to the energy problem should include a commitment to conserve energy, to develop U.S. resources—especially coal—and to rely more on railroads than trucks for the transportation of goods, because they are more energy-efficient.

Maintaining that reliance on coal energy will be necessary for the next 30 years, Thurman Trosper suggested a national commitment, first to energy conservation, and second, to the development of efficient and non-polluting energy sources. He opposes hydroelectric power because it destroys water ecosystems, and atomic fission because of the danger of fire, sabotage, the non-disposability of atomic wastes

and the police state surveillance it will require.

William Coldiron said the ultimate solution to the gas shortage problem is coal gasification.

Dr. McKinsey saw an analogy between contemporary responses to the energy shortage and Ibsen's *Enemy of the People*. In that play the main character discovers that the public baths—his town's tourist attraction—are polluted. At first, the grateful townspeople honor him for alerting them to the serious problem. Later, upon realizing how much the disclosure of his discovery will affect their economic survival, they turn against him as their "enemy."

Sometimes, McKinsey continued, it is easy to identify the "enemy"—the Canadians, in the case of Cabin Creek. But, he asked, how would Western Montanans deal with a Cabin Creek on the American side of the border—if it meant jobs for American workers and profits for American companies? Who is the enemy then? The laborer, the business, or the environmentalist?

The Kalispell Steering Committee included Ora J. Halvorson, Merle Lyda, and Marshall Murray.

Upcoming Events in the Public Program in the Humanities

April	
4	"Foreign Ethnic Influences in Montana" Statewide airing on MTN 12 noon
4-14	"Children's Rights Conference," in Missoula
20	"Men and the Women's Movement" Focus on Women, Bozeman
27	"Foreign Ethnic Influences in Montana" Public forum, Helena
27	"Men and the Women's Movement" Focus on Women, Bozeman
29	"Foreign Ethnic Influences in Montana" Public forum, Great Falls
29-May 1	"Women Aware" conference, Bozeman
May	
4	"Men and the Women's Movement" Focus on Women, Bozeman
4	"Foreign Ethnic Influences in Montana" Public forum, Missoula
5	"Foreign Ethnic Influences in Montana" Public forum, Billings
7	"Foreign Ethnic Influences in Montana" Public forum, Kalispell
14	"Foreign Ethnic Influences in Montana" Public forum, Glendive
21	"Foreign Ethnic Influences in Montana" Public forum, Bozeman

Butte

(Editor's Note: MHD—magneto-hydrodynamics—is a new process of burning coal which promises to produce more energy and less pollution than traditional coal-burning methods. MHD and other kinds of energy research are being pursued at the newly established Montana Energy Research and Development Institute—MERDI—in Butte.)

"Butte: Gold Camp in 1864, Silver Camp in 1875, Copper Camp in 1882, and MHD Camp in 1976?" asked Dr. Terrence McGlynn at a conference in the mining city on November 19. McGlynn, an historian and associate professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at Montana Tech, was one

(Continued on next page)



Second Annual Montana History Conference in Helena, Fall, 1975
Keynoter A. B. Guthrie, Jr. with Mr. and Mrs. Ken Korte

BUTTE (Cont'd)

of four panelists to discuss the topic, "Mining to MHD: Technology and Butte's Past and Future." Other panel members were: Professor Albert Borgmann, Philosophy, U of M; Professor Richard McConnen, Economics, MSU; and Dr. Jerry D. Plunkett, Managing Director of Butte's MERDI. The moderator was Dr. Roy Huffman, former MCH chairman, and Vice President for Research at MSU.

Professor McGlynn sees Butte as a child of technology, owing its settlement and development to mining, which has led to the rise of some positive human values. Loyalty is a part of Butte, he said, suggesting its inhabitants understand their city is a reflector of national social currents. He thought there might be more concern for one's fellow citizens in Butte, because miners work with partners.

The future spirit of Butte may be similar to that of its past: "There was and is a feeling of instability in a mining camp," said McGlynn, "along with a feeling of excitement and the idea that a grand future is just over the hill and beginning tomorrow. . ."

Emphasizing that no energy system can supply limitless energy, Dr. Jerry D. Plunkett said that MHD can best utilize hydrocarbon resources to supply energy needs while conservation efforts curb energy demands, and other energy sources are developed.

Unless gradual and well-planned, energy development could spell disaster, he warned, as well as great wealth for Montana. The state must seriously consider remaining agricultural and preserving the values Montanans cherish.

Professor Richard McConnen said MHD would have little impact on the state since its economy is "colonial," i.e., Montana exports most of what it produces and imports most of what it needs.

For Butte, however, the story is different. A Butte MHD facility with a one-million dollar payroll would increase by \$1,250,000 the total personal income of Butte residents and also increase business sales, although purchases made by the facility itself would be largely out-of-state. Even if MHD fails, it would have created important "infrastructures"—schools, libraries, hospitals—enabling the city to recover from the failure, the economist reported.

Professor Albert Borgmann said there are two sides to technology: its violence—to nature, to people at their work—and dominating the violence, its blessings—better health and education, more material goods. He said that while MHD could temporarily ease the energy shortage, to deal better with technology in the future, we must ask how technology could and should have distributed its blessings more equitably, and avoided the violence it has done.

Surplus economic power, continued Borgmann, is unequally distributed. Technology, he maintained, is not intrinsically

committed to social justice, and sense and direction must come from forces outside of it.

Borgmann said that sociological data indicates most people prefer simplicity to an ever-rising standard of living and that the value question—Is it good to have an ever-rising standard of living?—must be raised.

After all, he continued, technology was expected to provide both liberation *from*—hunger, cold, disease, illiteracy—and liberation *for*—art, communal activity, vigorous and creative life-styles—but it has failed to do the latter. Something, he said, in the rising standard of living itself encourages passivity and discourages simplicity and resourcefulness.

McConnen said he preferred simplicity himself, but felt he couldn't impose that value on others.

Borgmann disagreed, saying that values are not imposed, they are shared. People who value something—nature, art, a simple life-style—invite others to see if they also value them.

The Butte Steering Committee included Carl Anderson, Don Beuerman, and Dave Dickens.

Havre

"Technology and the Right to Die" was discussed at Northern Montana College on January 24 by keynote speaker Norman K. Brown (Seattle Internist and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Washington) and panelists Thomas Dicken (Chairman of the Humanities Division and Professor of Christian Thought, Rocky Mountain College), David McConnell (Pastor, First Baptist Church, Havre), and Robert Morrison (attorney, Havre).

Dr. Brown said that individuals can participate in decisions affecting their own medical treatment by considering and telling their physicians how much they value their lives. He urged the audience to consider whether life should always be sustained, or whether it should be ended for a higher good—a desire to avoid a vegetable existence, the mental destruction often caused by pain-relieving drugs, or financial and emotional hardship on one's family.

Society as a whole, he continued,
(Continued on next page)

The generosity of the following groups, which have contributed cash matching gifts to various projects this year, is gratefully acknowledged by the MCH:

ASUM Program Council
English Department, University of Montana
Hammond Fund for Western History
Missoula Ministerial Association

HAVRE (Cont'd)

also must decide the value it places on human life—should it be prolonged for social or political expediency as some claim Generalissimo Franco's was? and given that the growth of technology is infinite while our resources are not, at what point should investments in costly medical technology be stopped?

Attorney Robert Morrison explained that mercy killing, even if requested by the victim, is homicide. Montana law also forbids the aiding or soliciting of another to commit suicide. A physician is legally obliged to use all necessary "affirmative," though not extraordinary, means to sustain life. Conscious and mentally competent adults may, however, legally refuse even the most common-place medication. While "living wills" can guide relatives and the attending physician in the treatment of an unconscious patient, they are not legally binding on anyone as they are not legal documents, he reported.

Rev. David McConnell said it is important to help people define "what is a person," so they can determine for themselves if and when life is no longer worth living. If one is convinced that, for example, to be a person one must be able to do certain things—to work, to think, to read, to grow spiritually and emotionally—then one can refuse medication upon approaching the point at which these things are no longer possible.

Maintaining that euthanasia is a form of suicide, Professor Thomas Dicken said that in the Bible, the suicides of Saul, Achitophel, and Judas, are mentioned but not condemned. Also, the early Church Fathers advised Christian virgins to commit suicide rather than to allow themselves to be raped.

Dicken said that in ancient times man was seen as a doer of deeds, while in the modern world he is viewed as an experiencer of experiences. When one can do neither, he asked, is one still human?

Still, he argued, the burden of proof rests with those who would end a life. Our society, he concluded, has a tradition of over-protecting those who cannot protect themselves just as the Bible stresses special obligations to strangers who, by being in an alien environment, are less able to help themselves.

The members of the Havre Steering Committee were moderator Toni Hagener, Charles Holmes, and Stan Stephens.

Lewistown

Keynote speaker Maure Goldschmidt (Professor of Political Science, Reed College, Portland, Oregon) and panelists Harry Hausser (Professor of Philosophy, MSU), William "Scottie" James (Editor, *The Tribune*, Great Falls, and Lou Lucke (Director, Computing Center, MSU) discussed "Technology and the Right to Privacy" on January 31, at Lewistown's Yogo Inn.

Professor Goldschmidt said that privacy—"freedom from surveillance by government and by other private parties"—is an essential, though not absolute, right in a liberal democratic polity.

Tracing technological developments involving invasions of privacy whose growth he attributed to American international dominance, increasing government-sponsored domestic services, and the development of installment credit, Goldschmidt supported regulations governing the collection and disclosure of personal information, and legal methods for citizens to challenge and correct their government and business files.

Even with such regulations, he concluded, the ultimate protection for rights of privacy is strongly supportive public opinion, which largely depends upon a healthy economy and the easing of international tensions since domestic and international insecurity frightens people into demanding a stronger governmental exercise of power over citizens.

Lou Lucke asserted that computers can protect privacy since computerized information, unlike written records, cannot be read by the general public. He urged the instituting of computer education at the high school level to dispel the mystery of computer technology so that non-technocratic people can make rational judgements about its proper use.

Scottie James said that the press is obliged to inform the public and to fight for access to information. Such access, he continued, is often made difficult, not by the existence of any law, but by arrogant bureaucrats who refuse to disclose public information in order to prevent public scrutiny of their work. *The Tribune* editor warned



Prof. Maure L. Goldschmidt

that undemocratic government-by-secrecy often lies under the guise of protection of privacy.

Harry Hausser suggested that the basis of the recognized need for privacy is the dignity and autonomy of the person. It is in the family, he said, that a person develops, and privacy allows people to develop certain traits of character so they can become full persons.

The Lewistown Steering Committee included moderator Rev. George Barnhart, Pam Butcher, Barbara Gies, Ken Noerr, and MCH chairman Brad Parrish.

COMMITTEE NOTES

The Montana Committee for the Humanities is a group of fifteen citizens from across the state who serve in a voluntary capacity for 3-year terms. In December MCH chairman Dr. Roy E. Huffman (Vice President for Research, Montana State University), Browning School Superintendent Earl Barlow, Montana State Librarian Alma Jacobs, and Roscoe rancher William MacKay, Jr. completed their terms of membership. The MCH looks forward to the continued benefit of their advice and welcomes new Committee members MSU English Department chairman Arthur Coffin, Great Falls librarian Alene Cooper, Director of Flathead Agency Human Resources Development Program Karen Fenton, and Circle rancher Phillip G. Haglund, Sr.

Replacing Dr. Huffman as MCH chairman is Lewistown attorney Bradley B. Parrish.

Glendive

Glendive's United Congregational Church was the site of the final regional conference on February 28. Discussing the social and economic impacts of technological development of Eastern Montana's coal were keynoter Raymond Gold (Professor of Sociology, U of M), and panelists Harry Hausser (Professor of
(Continued on next page)

GLENDIVE (Cont'd)

Philosophy, MSU), Patrick Jobs (Professor of Sociology, MSU), and Jeannette Studer (Economist, Old West Regional Commission, Billings). The moderator was Joseph Friederichs, Chemistry Instructor at Dawson College.

The conference topic and speakers were chosen by Glendive Steering Committee members Jan Blickenstaff, Carolyn Dufner, and Joe Hathaway, assisted by Louise Cross who is a member of the Humanities Committee.

Professor Gold stressed that the social cost of coal development—a required part of environmental impact statements—is often not reducible to dollars and cents assessments and, further, is not limited to effects on institutions such as schools, fire and police departments. Social costs, he said, include the more difficult-to-measure effects on social relationships and day-to-day social interactions. Distinguishing between energy *needs* and energy *desires*, he said that often the energy desires of the majority of Americans threaten the rights of a minority, such as Eastern Montanans, to determine their own destinies. It is important, he said, for those most affected by development to have a larger political say in determining its course.

Jeannette Studer cited findings on coal development and industrialization in rural areas. She said a recent study indicates that at such sites 40% of workers are local people, and 60% are people who have moved to the area. Half of the latter come with families averaging two children. Most of the employees are men in their early twenties with median annual incomes of \$17,600, but often their jobs are not long term. She emphasized that towns and school districts, which provide most of the services required by these workers and their families, do not necessarily have access to the new taxes generated by the county-based industrialization.

Professor Jobs pointed out that in rural communities, where most persons are known to each other, informal social controls work to control unacceptable social behavior, whereas in urbanized areas where family ties have broken down, impersonal formal legal structures are relied upon more for control of unacceptable behavior. Assaults, thefts, and other crimes against property rise in such areas. With the influx of large numbers of single young men into a community, drinking, fighting, and prostitution also increase. He predicted that the future growth in population in

Eastern Montana will reverse the fifty-year trend of decreased population in the 17-county area, and the growth will be sporadic and explosive.

Professor Hausser stressed that it has been characteristic of Americans to be restless, mobile, to desire improvements, and to eagerly embrace opportunities, despite the uncertainties which might accompany the opportunities. He said that Montana's hesitation about coal development may be an indication of the beginning of a new pattern in Americans' perception of change. Americans and Montanans are now a more mature people, he said.

New Grant Awards

In the last four months the Montana Committee for the Humanities funded the following projects:

Fall Focus on Women, submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee to Focus on Women, Bozeman. A ten-week series of workshops on the legal, historical, and social rights and choices of women for education, employment, and self-fulfillment. \$2,625.00

Montana and the West: New Directions, submitted by the Council to Preserve Montana History, Helena. A conference (October 23-25, 1975) in Helena, on the clash between public policy and private rights in Montana's history. Included sessions on agrarian radicalism, Indian rights, economic and social rights of individuals, the role of women in Montana politics, and on Montana heritage in Western literature. \$6,215.00

Planning for Older Americans, submitted by Dawson College, Glendive. A workshop in Glendive addressing the dilemmas, rights, and choices of older Americans and of society in relating to older Americans. \$2,141.00.

Women: Many Dimensions, submitted by the Glendive Ad Hoc Committee on Women. A six-week workshop (October 1 to November 5, 1975) in Glendive to address women's changing roles and family lifestyles and to explore women's legal rights, employment opportunities and rights to and potential for self-expression and self-determination. \$3,537.00.

Global Consciousness for Montanans, sponsored by the Christian Campus Ministries, Missoula. Six forums on global issues such as hunger, population, energy development, militarism, detente, and American acceptance of refugees or exiles. An identification of those values which determine the sense of private rights and of what ought to be the public response to the world situation. \$4,533.00.

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

in Missoula County, sponsored by Missoula Tomorrow. A series of forum debates on Missoula's quality of life and plans for its improvement, focusing on private rights and public choices questions involved in the topics of growth, pollution, energy, community design, etc. \$3,500.00.

Japan in Montana's Future: Threat or Promise?, sponsored by Montana Association for International Studies (MAIS). A two-day forum in Butte and Billings (in early December, 1975) on the current and potential interaction between Montana and Japan as a result of increasing trade and interdependence, focusing on questions of conflicting rights and alternative choices. \$4,630.00.

The American Presidency: Monarchy Revisited?, sponsored by the Presidential Forum Committee, Missoula. A one-day panel discussion (November, 1975) in Billings with special attention given to abuses of presidential power, threats to civil liberties, constitutional restraints upon power, and possible changes in the system. \$735.00.

Rights and Choices of the Aging Indian, sponsored by the Montana United Indian Association, Helena. A series of one-day meetings in October and November, 1975, with reservation and off-reservation elderly Indian people to discuss and prioritize issues of concern to elderly Indian people, focusing on economic and cultural rights. \$3,984.60.

Science and Society Symposium, sponsored by Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, Butte. A one-day public forum in November, 1975, in Butte on questions arising from the interplay between human values and science and technology, exploring topics such as "Death with Dignity," "Genetic Manipulation for a Better Society," "Energy Demands of the Future," etc. \$2,704.00.

The Right to Remain Wild: A Public Choice, sponsored by the Wilderness Institute, U of M School of Forestry. A 3-day conference in Missoula (November, 1975) on wildlands, exploring their relationship to the spirits of men, processes of evaluation and allocation, and ways of infusing decision-making with human values. \$5,923.00.

Montana Alternative Agriculture Conference, sponsored by the Montana Alternative Agriculture Conference Committee. A three-day conference in November, 1975, in Billings on alternatives in agriculture in Montana. The major question addressed is "What is the relationship between man and nature with regard to the agricultural process?" \$6,991.72.

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Foreign Ethnic Influences in Montana, sponsored by the Modern Language Department at MSU. A 30-minute film for statewide television airing and eight forums (Kalispell, Missoula, Helena, Great Falls, Bozeman, Billings, Glendive, and Butte.) An historical and sociological review of significant foreign ethnic cultures and their influence on life in Montana. \$8,470.00.

A Reservation Cultural Workshop, sponsored by St. Paul's Mission, Hays, Montana. A three-day cultural workshop in early December, 1975, to explore the historical and cultural roots of the Gros Ventres. \$2,124.00.

The Rights and Choices of the Aging Indian—State Conference, sponsored by the Montana United Indian Association, Helena. A statewide conference on the economic and cultural rights of the

aging Indian. Discussion topics ranged from housing and medical needs to loneliness, alienation, and the relationships of the elderly and the youth. \$9,300.00.

Water for All Our Tomorrows, sponsored by the Institute of the Rockies, KEEP, and Cooperative Extension Service and Mt. Water Development Ass'n. A series of workshops and forums designed to initiate state-wide dialogue on the value choices involved in water use issues. There will be workshops to train local community leaders—volunteers, and a series of community forums around the state to create dialogue on the exploration of local water resources, their relationship to the perspective of interstate and international water policy decisions, and the implications for the quality of human life. \$17,200.00.

Missoula County: Yesterday,

Today, and Tomorrow, sponsored by the Missoula County Commissioners. A series of six documentaries to be aired on local television, tracing the history of Missoula County. Consideration will be given to the geographic, economic, political, and humanistic development of the country. A "grass-roots" approach will be emphasized. \$5,281.20.

Beyond Bricks and Mortar, sponsored by the Social Concerns Task Force of the Missoula Ministerial Association, the League of Women Voters, and the Montana Association of Churches' Task Force on Government and Institutions. A documentary film and three public discussions to examine the criminal justice/penal system in Montana—its goals, the conflicts of rights involved in the system, and humanistic alternatives. \$17,331.00.

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